

CURRENT STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-13. (canceled)
14. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
 - a main microscope (1) including a main objective (2) having an optical axis (4), a pair of main stereoscopic observation beam paths (4a, 4b) passing through the main objective (2), and a zoom (6) in the main observation beam paths (4a, 4b), the zoom having an axis arranged at an angle to the optical axis (4) of the main objective (2);
 - an assistant's microscope (8); and
 - a beam splitter (7) arranged in the main observation beam paths (4a, 4b) between the main objective (2) and the zoom (6) for reflecting out a pair of assistant's stereoscopic observation beam paths (9a, 9b) to the assistant's microscope;
 - wherein the beam splitter (7) is continuously rotatable, together with the assistant's microscope (8), relative to main microscope (1) about the optical axis (4) of the main objective (2), whereby the beam splitter (7) and assistant's microscope (8) are optically usable in any rotational position.
15. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 14, wherein the zoom (6) includes an optical system in each of the pair of main stereoscopic observation beam paths.
16. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 14, wherein the axis of the zoom (6) extends substantially perpendicular to the optical axis (4) of the main objective (2).
17. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 14, wherein the assistant's microscope (8) is mechanically detachable from the main microscope (1).

18. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the beam splitter (7) is mechanically detachable from the main microscope (1) together with the assistant's microscope (8).
19. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the assistant's microscope (8) includes a deflection element (10) for receiving the pair of assistant's stereoscopic observation beam paths (9a, 9b) along an assistant's microscope axis (14) and redirecting the pair of assistant's stereoscopic observation beam paths (9a, 9b) into an assistant's binocular tube.
20. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the assistant's microscope (8) further includes optical components in the assistant's microscope axis (14) between the beam splitter and the deflection element (10), the optical components enabling a spacing variation (15) and/or providing an image rotation between the beam splitter (7) and the deflection element (10).
21. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the deflection element (10) is rotatable relative to the beam splitter (7) about the assistant's microscope axis (14).
22. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the rotation of the beam splitter (7) together with the assistant's microscope (8) is drivable in motorized or manual fashion.
23. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the deflection element (10) is rotatable relative to the beam splitter (7) to vary a tilt angle (\square) between the assistant's microscope axis (14) and the direction of the pair of assistant's stereoscopic observation beam paths (9a, 9b) after redirection by the deflection element (10).

24. (previously presented) The apparatus according Claim 14, wherein the main objective (2) has a fixed focal length.
25. (previously presented) The apparatus according Claim 14, wherein the main objective (2) has a variable focal length.
26. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the main microscope (1) further comprises an illumination beam path (12a) directed through the main objective (2).
27. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the main objective (2) is divided into at least two parts.
28. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein ~~one~~ a first part of the main objective (2) is used for the main observation beam paths (4a, b) of the main microscope (1), and ~~another~~ a second part of the main objective (2) is used for the illumination beam path (12a), the second part being spaced from the first part and arranged at an angle to the optical axis (4).
29. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the main objective (2) is rotatable, together with the illumination beam path (12a), about the optical axis (4) of the main objective (2).